

of his official duties hereunder; and the said County Road Engineer shall hold office for two years from the first Tuesday of June, 1929, unless sooner removed for cause or by the County Commissioners as hereinafter provided; and the County Commissioners shall make such appointments without any reference whatever to the political opinions of the person so appointed.

1912, ch. 331, sec. 116. 1922, ch. 402, sec. 116.

237. The said County Road Engineer shall not be liable to removal from office for any reason other than immorality, incompetency or wilful neglect of duty, and then upon the sworn complaint of ten or more resident taxpayers of Wicomico County, to be filed with the said County Commissioners, or upon complaint by the clerk of the County Commissioners, filed by their direction; and every such complaint shall state specifically the nature and character of the charges preferred, of which due notice shall be given the said County Road Engineer; and if the said County Commissioners, after hearing such charges, at which the engineer and the parties making complaint shall be entitled to be represented by counsel and to produce any competent testimony, shall find that said County Road Engineer is immoral, incompetent or has been guilty of wilful neglect of duty, it shall be their duty to immediately remove said County Road Engineer from office; but either party to such hearing shall be entitled to an appeal from the decision of said County Commissioners to the Circuit Court for Wicomico County; provided, that such appeal is taken within five days thereafter; and when such appeal shall be made in writing, it shall be the duty of the clerk to the County Commissioners to at once file all papers, with the ruling of the County Commissioners, with the clerk to the Circuit Court for said county, and the clerk to the Circuit Court shall place said appeal on the Appeal Docket of said court, which appeal shall be heard de novo without the intervention of a jury in recess or in term time; and the court shall fix a date for hearing of said appeal, of which date the appellant and appellee shall have at least five days' notice, and the clerk shall issue subpoenas for witnesses, and the court may affirm or overrule the action of the County Commissioners as to removing or not removing said engineer and may award costs. But if the order of the County Commissioners removing such engineer, shall be affirmed, then in such case the said engineer shall not be entitled to receive any salary from the date of the order of the County Commissioners from which such appeal is taken. Pending an appeal where such engineer has been removed the County Commissioners may employ another engineer with the same duties as by this Article provided for the Road Engineer, or a majority of all of the County Commissioners may by resolution remove said engineer after giving him at least sixty days' prior notice in writing and appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term of said engineer in the same manner as herein provided in case of a vacancy.

And the said Road Engineer before entering upon the discharge of his duties as provided for in this Act shall within thirty days give a bond: